



Congressman Vito Fossella **News from Capitol Hill**



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Rep. Fossella Calls for 9/11 Health Czar to Help Sick & Injured Responders

Health Czar Would Be Responsible for Federal Response

Congressman Vito Fossella (R-NY13) this week called for the appointment of a 9/11 Health Czar to coordinate the federal government's response to injured and sick responders who worked at Ground Zero.



Reps. Fossella and Maloney call for appointment of 9/11 Health Czar during press conference at Ground Zero yesterday.

Fossella, who is working with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney on the initiative, said the 9/11 Health Czar must be a seasoned health professional with the knowledge and expertise to meet the extraordinary challenges confronting the sick and injured. The individual would be responsible for filling the gaps in the federal response and bringing together those with a proven track record screening, monitoring and treating 9/11 responders.

The call for a 9/11 Health Czar comes just weeks after Fossella secured an agreement from House Speaker Dennis Hastert to restore \$125 million in federal workers compensation funding for New York City. Fossella opposed the effort by the White House to rescind the money, which will be used in the future for September 11th-related workers compensation claims and also to meet the health needs of those affected by the events of that day.

Fossella said the recent deaths of three 9/11 responders — EMTs Timothy Keller, 41 (June 2005), Felix Hernandez, 31 (October 2005) and, earlier this month, NYPD Detective James Zadroga, 34 - underscore the need for the appointment of a Health Czar.

It is believed that tens of thousands of first responders, federal employees and lower Manhattan residents and workers are suffering from health problems likely caused by exposure to toxins at or near the World Trade Center site, including asbestos, lead, mercury, powdered glass and other carcinogens that were stagnating in the air.



Fossella joins with FDNY Commissioner Scoppetta and FDNY officials to announce the restoration of \$125 million for NYC.